(c) whether these calves are sold for meat by weight; and

(d) if so, their average annual number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Year-wise number of he-calves and she-calves born in cattle and buffaloes during 2000—2002 are given below :

Year		He-calves (Number)	She-calves (Number)
2000	(a) Cattle	178	182
	(b) Buffaloes	76	75
2001	(a) Cattle	157	174
	(b) Buffaloes	71	51
2002	(a) Cattle	184	163
	(b) Buffaloes	47	48

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

NCC recommendation for ban on cow slaughter

†3732. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that National Commission on Cattle had recommended to put a ban on cow slaughter in the country;

(b) if so, when did Government receive Commission's report;

(c) the effective measures taken by Government to implement the recommendation for putting a ban on cow slaughter after receiving the report; and

(d) by when Government propose to introduce the bill regarding banning of cow slaughter in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government received Commission's report on 31st July, 2002.

(c) An Expert Group has been constituted to examine the recommendations of the Commission and suggest measures for its implementation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) As per Constitutional provision, the preservation of cattle is in the State List and therefore, the States are having exclusive powers to legislate in the matter. Even then the Government of India is examining the matter.

Legislation for cow slaughter

3733. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA :
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI :
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to enact legislation for imposing a total ban on cow slaughter in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been discussed with various State Governments and if so, their response to the proposed legislation;

(d) what arrangements have been made to look after millions of stray cattle all over the country; and

(e) whether some sections of the society are opposing to this move; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (e) The preservation of cattle is a matter on which the State Legislatures have exclusive powers to legislate, the relevant entry being Entry 15 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution which reads as follows :

"Preservation, protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases, veterinary training and practice."

Even then the Government of India is examining the matter.

Situation assessment survey on farmers

3734. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :
SHRI RAJU PARMAR :
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that reforms in the agriculture sector have failed to benefit the poor and marginal farmers;